Message Text

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R 151446Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0220

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2577

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, JM
SUBJECT: TIGHT FINANCIAL SQUEEZE FOR GOVERNMENT-OWNED
ENTERPRISES FORESEEN

- 1. ACCORDING TO A LEAD STORY IN THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS, THIRTY-SIX GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA (GOJ) ENTERPRISES FACE A BLEAK FINANCIAL FUTURE. BY 1980 THESE FIRMS WILL BE NEEDING J\$739 MILLION TO MEET INVESTMENT NEEDS AND COVER DEFICITS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT. OF THIS TOTAL J\$547 MILLION WILL BE NEEDED BY FOUR MAJOR PROJECTS -- THE PROPOSED NEW CEMENT PLANT, JAVEMEX, JAMEX AND JALUMEX -- OVER THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD 1977-80.
- 2. ACCORDING TO THE MEMORANDUM ON THE 1977-78 BUDGET, THE EQUITY CONTRIBUTION FROM COUNTRIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JAMAICA ON THESE PROJECTS (MEXICO AND VENEZUELA) WILL PROVIDE J\$87 MILLION. THE REMAINING J\$460 MILLION WOULD HAVE TO BE RAISED LOCALLY AND ON INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS. THE OTHER 32 ENTERPRISES WILL BE NEEDING J\$279 MILLION. THE RESOURCE GAP BREAKDOWN SHOWS J\$85.5 MILLION FOR 1977-78; J\$112.8 MILLION IN 1978-79 AND J\$80.6 MILLION FOR 1979-80.
- 3. DESCRIBING THE REQUIREMENT AS A HERCULEAN TASK UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, THE MEMORANDUM STATED THAT THE SOLUTION WAS EITHER THE SCALING DOWN OF THE PROPOSED LEVELS OF OPERATION, THE DEFERRING OF A PART OF THE EXPENDITURE OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH. IRVING

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